Poverty alleviation schemes in Orissa

2536. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central schemes that are currently in operation in the State of Orissa for poverty alleviation;

(b) whether there is any monitoring mechanism for watching the performance of these Centrally sponsored schemes; and

(c) the total fund released for these schemes during the last three financial years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing an employment oriented Urban Poverty Alleviation Centrally sponsored scheme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) on all India basis, including in the State of Orissa, since 1.12.1997. The scheme strives to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed and under employed poor, through encouraging the setting up of self employment ventures by the urban poor living below the poverty line, and also through providing wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets. The scheme of SJSRY is monitored at the Central level through Quarterly Progress Reports received from the State/UT Governments as well as periodical review meetings and field visits by the officers.

(c) The Central funds released under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) to the States of Orissa during the last three years are as under:

(Rupees in Lakh)

State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Orissa	48.91	469.86	808.97

Overseas Indian Investors

2537. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an 'Overseas Indian Facilitation centre' was launched by his Ministry to provide a host of investment and business advisory services to potential overseas Indian investors;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and in how many countries these centres have been established;

(c) the number of applications that were received during the last one year in various centres, Centre-wise; and

(d) whether this programme clashes with the programmes of Ministry of Commerce and Industry in promoting foreign investments in India?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has set up an Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) as a not-for-profit-Trust in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The objective of the Centre is to promote overseas Indian investments in India, facilitating Business-to-Business partnerships between Indian Business and overseas Indians and extend advisory services to PIO's and NRI's on various issues such as Consular questions, stay in India, financial issues, etc. The Centre functions from Delhi only. The OIFC has received 65 applications since it was launched in May, 2007. Since the OIFC functions exclusively for the benefit of overseas Indian community, there is no clash of interest with the programmes of Ministry of Commerce and Industry in promoting foreign investments in the country.

Programme for emigrant workers

2538. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a national skill upgradation and pre-departure orientation training programme for emigrant workers was launched in partnership with the States;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the number of States participating in this programme;

(d) whether Government would involve some industrial houses and private institutes to make this programme successful; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (e) A Scheme titled 'Skill upgradation and pre-departure orientation of emigrant workers' was drawn up by this Ministry during 2006-07 and the Scheme was implemented on a pilot basis involving 5 State Governments, *viz.* Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Punjab. During 2007-08, the Ministry intends to enlarge the Scheme in partnership with Ministry of Micro-Small and Medium Enterprises, apex Industry Associations and reputed Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) under Public-Private partnership.

Women deserted by overseas husbands

2539. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to provide aid to women who are deserted by their overseas husbands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and